

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
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7 February 1985
MPA 5008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report — Panama Bureau — January 1985

I. GENERAL

The main focus of attention during the month for the bureau's two ROSET antennas was the identification of European and Soviet television transmissions for a high-level headquarters project. The round-the-clock cruising effort necessary for the project was completed on time with the help of an MOD cruising officer from headquarters. Although restricted by the television project, the bureau still managed to file over 42,000 words from ROSET sources during the month. The two biggest coups in that regard were the monitoring and processing of live pass-feed television interviews by Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega on 24 January and by Israel's Shimon Peres on 28 January.

Radio teletype continues to be the single most productive satellite medium thus far with Havana's PRENSA LATINA services far and away the leader in that category. In many cases we have found that the PRELA circuits often carry important reports concerning Central America hours before local Central American media carry the stories.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Following a Christmas truce in El Salvador, renewed fighting between rebel and government forces began as both sides sought to strengthen their military positions. A third round of peace talks between the two groups, set to be held in late January, failed to materialize.

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During the month, Nicaragua again captured the bulk of the bureau's attention. Cuban President Fidel Castro was the leading guest at Daniel Ortega's inauguration as president of Nicaragua. During his three-day visit to Nicaragua, Castro delivered a two and one half hour speech to dedicate the Victoria de Julio sugar refinery in Malacatoya, which was built with Cuban assistance. In the speech Castro announced Cuba was canceling the debt that Nicaragua had incurred in building the refinery. Other prominent visitors to Nicaragua during January included Juergen Moelleman, minister of state in the FRG Foreign Ministry, and Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

On 18 January, the United States abruptly suspended the talks it had held with the Nicaraguan Government over the previous seven months in Manzanillo, Mexico, because of lack of substantive progress. The suspension of the Manzanillo talks as well as an earlier U.S. decision to disregard a World Court ruling in a suit filed by Nicaragua drew heavy fire from the Sandinista regime during the month.

Daniel Ortega reappointed three Catholic priests, who serve as foreign relations, culture, and education ministers, to his revamped Cabinet. Priestly participation in government posts is forbidden by Canon Law and the clergymen were ordered by their religious superiors to choose between the priesthood and their political posts. Father Edgar Parrales, who holds the post of ambassador to the OAS, resigned from the priesthood, while Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal announced that he would ignore the Vatican ban on his performance of sacred rites. Father Cardenal was subsequently awarded the Augusto Cesar Sandino Order in its highest degree, and President Ortega himself presented Cardenal with the award at an elaborate state ceremony.

Near month's end, Pope John Paul II began a Latin America tour that would eventually take the pontiff to Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.

B. Communications

During the month, the Bureau's primary AUTODIN communications circuit experienced five outages totaling almost eight and a half hours. The majority of the downtime was a result of equipment failures at the Panama Automated Relay (PAR).

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C. Lateral Services

In response to two separate requests, the bureau provided a local embassy section and a headquarters consumer with audio cassette tapes of Fidel Castro's 11 January speech at the inauguration of a sugar mill in Nicaragua.

Responding to an urgent headquarters consumer request, the bureau wirefiled the Spanish-language version of a U.S.-attributed article on "Cuban diplomatic couriers and subversive activity in Latin America" that appeared in a local Panama City newspaper on 14 January.

Also in response to a headquarters consumer request, the bureau filed from a Costa Rican paper a two-part interview with the U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica.

D. Technical

Panama Bureau's automatic switching system from commercial power to the emergency generator was repaired by Army engineers on 21 January. The bureau was without power for approximately one hour.

The bureau procured locally its third IBM Personal Computer: One IBM PC-256, Two disk Drive, Model 5150, Serial No. 11461335150, One Keyboard Keytronic, One IBM Monochrome Display, Model 5151, Serial No. 0197496, One Okidata ML93 Printer (160 C.P.S.), Model 8226, Serial No. 206584, One Monochrome Parallel Adapter, One Printer Cable and one AC FLTR/Surge protector Orange. The total price was \$4,852.95.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Junior editor [] successfully completed a three-month editorial TDY and departed on 8 January. [] will be reassigned to the Daily Reporting Division in Headquarters.

Junior editor [] arrived for a three-month TDY at Panama on 7 January.

During January, the bureau continued its recruiting campaign to hire five Spanish monitors, one associate editor, one cruising monitor, one radio operator, and one teletypist. By month's end, respondents to a December newspaper advertisement were being interviewed and tested for the various openings. A breakdown of the candidates for the positions follows:

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<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Strong Candidates</u> (based on interview/tests)
monitor	29	interview/testing in progress
associate editor	16	interview/testing in progress
cruising monitor	13	interview/testing in progress
radio operator	10	3
teletypist	17	2

Once formal ambassadorial approval is received for the increase in the bureau T/O, the strongest candidates in each position will be offered jobs. Applications to EOD new personnel should begin next month.

Staff employees are now receiving earnings and leave statements through the DHL courier system; the statements accompnay the payroll checks of our local employees in the biweekly DHL package. As a result of the new arrangement, made by C/B&F and C/Admin, staffers are getting the statements within a week of pay day rather than three or four weeks as in the past when the statements were being pouched. The arrangement has eliminated, for Panama at least, a long-standing irritant for employees who have been uncertain of their bank balances.

B. Building and Grounds

During the month, local contractors welded hangers for security bars at the entrance to the bureau administrative office, thus enlarging the safehaven area.

IV. VISITS

Ambassador to Panama Everett E. Briggs, Deputy Chief of Mission William T. Pryce and political officer Donald Winters visited the Bureau for a briefing and tour of the facilities on 30 January.

STAT Chief of the Executive and Planning Staff, visited Panama from 22 to 26 January during a tour of Latin America and African bureaus.

A three-person crew from the computer application firm of Chase, Rosen and Wallace, Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia, conducted a two-week training seminar in applications of the IBM personal computer. The team, composed of company executive Stan Rosen and Paul Nistico and Connie Corrigan, conducted classroom instruction and individualized self-help workshops for the bureau IBM PC users.

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MOD cruising officer [] visited Panama from 16 January to 1 February to assist in a high-level request to identify Soviet and European television signals monitorable from our ROSET antennas and to receive an orientation on the ROSET equipment.

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ED logistics officer [] visited Panama from 7 to 11 January to review and assimilate ROSET accountable property receipts.

The embassy's Community Liaison Officer, Elizabeth Belt, and a GSO officer, Rosalyn Anderson, visited the bureau on 15 January for a briefing and walk-through.

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Chief, Panama Bureau

Attachment
Production Report

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JANUARY 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	532,440
TOTAL NONPUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	21,850
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,445

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	9,865 min	42,540 min	202.23 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires LATIN in
Spanish

4,970

AUSTRIA

Vienna OPECNA in
Spanish

0

COLOMBIA

Bogota Domestic Service in
Spanish

3,040

Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in
Spanish

8,680

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in
Spanish

3,080

Bogota EL TIEMPO in
Spanish

5,670

Bogota EL SIGLO in
Spanish

2,790

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Reloj in
Spanish

9,630

San Jose Radio Impacto in
Spanish

8,850

* San Jose PRELA in
Spanish

440

San Jose LA NACION in
Spanish

4,660

San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in
Spanish

0

San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in
Spanish

2,600

San Jose LA REPUBLICA in
Spanish

1,750

San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in
Spanish

1,750

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Spanish	59,410		
Havana International Service in Quechua	970		
*Havana PRELA in English		27,140	
*Havana PRELA in Spanish		21,030	
*Havana IPS in Spanish		370	
(CLANDESTINES)			
Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	17,930		
✓ Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	160		
Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua	10,700		
*Radio Venceremos Press Service in Spanish		770	
CZECHOSLOVAKIA			
*Prague CTK in Spanish		350	
ECUADOR			
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	3,150		
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	1,760		
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	15,180		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	4,720		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	4,240		
*San Salvador NOTISAL in Spanish		260	
*San Salvador SALPRES in Spanish		980	
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			3,350
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			5,560

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			2,870
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			1,160
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTEE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		2,320	
Paris AFP in Spanish		21,200	
GERMANY			
*Hamburg DPA in Spanish		4,700	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	2,570		
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	2,020		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	1,420		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	1,430		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			1,670
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1,020
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	6,570		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	2,420		
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	12,380		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	1,470		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	4,140		
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			650
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			450
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			5,020
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			850

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
ISRAEL			
*Jerusalem Television Service in English	4,340		
MEXICO			
*Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		450	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			5,630
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			1,700
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			860
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			1,200
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			420
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			340
NICARAGUA			
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	35,840		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	6,610		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	13,490		
Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish	26,270		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	5,890		
Managua International Service in Spanish	150		
*Managua Television Service in Spanish	2,040		
*Managua ANN in Spanish		3,840	
*Managua PRELA in Spanish		3,760	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			10,440
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			3,460
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			9,690
PANAMA			
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	0		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	1,760		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	1,260		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		14,570	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			310
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			6,010
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			10,480
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			5,780
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			18,570
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			1,820
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			890
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			0
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			2,670
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		10,950	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish	570		
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	2,100		
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			3,440
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			2,570

* See Annex

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JANUARY 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES

COSTA RICA	
San Jose PRELA in	
Spanish	440
(CLANDESTINE)	
Radio Venceremos Press Service in	
Spanish	770
CUBA	
Havana PRELA in	
English	3,990
Havana PRELA in	
Spanish	20,000
Havana IPS in	
Spanish	370
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	
Prague CTK in	
Spanish	340
EL SALVADOR	
San Salvador NOTISAL in	
Spanish	260
San Salvador SALPRES in	
Spanish	980
GERMANY	
Hamburg DPA in	
Spanish	340
ISRAEL	
Jerusalem Television Service in	
English	4,340
MEXICO	
Mexico City CERIGUA in	
Spanish	450
NICARAGUA	
Managua Television Service in	
Spanish	2,040
Managua ANN in	
Spanish	4,410
Managua PRELA in	
Spanish	3,760
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TOTAL FOR JANUARY 1985	42,500

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JANUARY 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES

COSTA RICA

San Jose PRELA in Spanish	440
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(CLANDESTINE)

Radio Venceremos Press Service in Spanish	770
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CUBA

Havana PRELA in English	3,990
Havana PRELA in Spanish	20,000
Havana IPS in Spanish	370

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Prague CTK in Spanish	350
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EL SALVADOR

San Salvador NOTISAL in Spanish	260
San Salvador SALPRES in Spanish	980

GERMANY

Hamburg DPA in Spanish	340
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ISRAEL

Jerusalem Television Service in English	4,340
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MEXICO

Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	450
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NICARAGUA

Managua Television Service in Spanish	2,040
Managua ANN in Spanish	4,410
Managua PRELA in Spanish	3,760

TOTAL FOR JANUARY 1985

 42,500